

April 1, 2008

Minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, Illinois in session in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Tuesday, April 1, 2008. Mayor Ed Wollet, presiding. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise and Milton were present.

Mayor Wollet said that this meeting was scheduled to have an informal work session to review the IMAP document presented to the Council by Brad Townsend of Northern Illinois University at their March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The document is designed to show the community their strength and weak points all to help in their endeavors in developing economic development.

Beginning with reviewing some of the statistics quoted in the report, Council seemed to recognize that Clinton really is a “bedroom community” with 55% of its work force traveling to bigger communities for work. Another factor that was noticed by the Council was that the population has stayed fairly constant over the years. The question of whether our municipal government can really afford to put out a large economic package to attract 120 jobs – seems to be risky in today’s economic development picture.

In a 3 year Vision Plan in 2001, a mission statement read as follows:

“The purpose of the city government for Clinton, Illinois, is to provide the highest quality of life possible for our citizens and guests while maintaining a cooperative atmosphere for the retention and attraction of business and industry.”

Some of the items were implemented – others may be in progress, on hold, aborted or awaiting the right opportunity – over this period of time.

This brought forth lots of discussion about our future plans that come from updating the comprehensive plan for land use - an in-depth five-year capital improvement plan for the funds that are on hand – building new along with maintaining our older infrastructure.

Recommendations came in the next portion of the document with Council deciding to prioritize the top five and come back in future work sessions to discuss those five at a time. For instance – written job descriptions and evaluations got a lot of comments and suggestions. Also the age-old subject of lack of pension plans (with the exception of Police and Fire Depts.) for city employees and hospital employees – IMRF not affordable even with only picking up 20% of back service or 5 years on longevity employees. Tim Followell did comment that employees can buy back some of their own back service and the figures quoted can reflect the worst scenario when in reality the impact could be less. The fact that the Hospital employees have a choice to join now or later leaves an unknown factor in projecting cost of the pension. Many years ago, the city join ICMA offering a 457 plan that employees could voluntary contribute to and approximately 10 years ago a matching 401 was started for employees. However Tim stated if the city is

going to look at other recommendations then this pension subject is just as much a part of the plan for Clinton as the other topics.

Personnel policy will be a long process. A draft was prepared some years ago, which was never brought to the bargaining units.

Commissioner Edmunds reported that procurement along with GASBY is in the works at this moment.

Mayor Wollet stopped at this point and said he thinks this will be a lot to work on this first round. Another meeting date will be set after everyone chooses the first five topics. Comments from those attending were that they think this is good that Council is being very open about the document however some of the points that are more operational and budget procedures might not be of concern to the general public but might be more of an internal decision.

Mayor Wollet said there are a lot of things that are going good and the right thing for Clinton however we just need to sit down to see if there is something else that would benefit the citizens to make this municipality even better for business and industry climate. Getting everything in order before moving on might be the first order of business.

Commissioner Edmunds did say some of the very technical things are going to be less than interesting to the general public. Implementing these ideas does indeed have a bearing on the question of going to a home-rule community. This is when the general public should and needs to be involved.

Aggressive time lines should be set to accomplish the internal topics enabling the Council to move on to the bigger topics in short order.

Motion was made by Commissioner Edmunds and seconded by Commissioner Hickman to adjourn. Motion was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rozella D. Wickenhauser  
City Clerk